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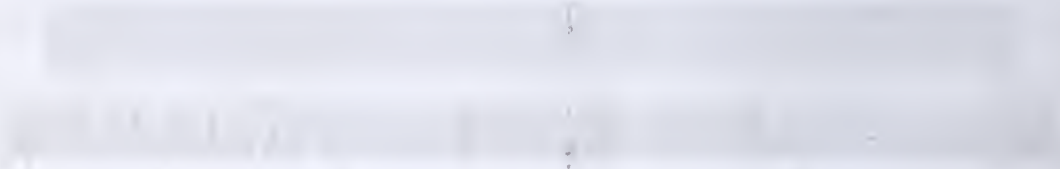
REPORT
OF
THE INSPECTORS
OF THE
WESTERN PENITENTIARY
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
For 1850.

ANNUAL REPORT



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS
OF THE
WESTERN PENITENTIARY
OF PENNSYLVANIA,
FOR THE YEAR 1850.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 2, 1851.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN—In obedience to law, the undersigned Board of Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, have the honor to submit to the Legislature, the following Report of the Transactions of the Institution during the last year.

In times past, it has been our custom, as it was our pleasure, to enter into an elaborate exposition of the main features of the Pennsylvania System of Prison Discipline; to develop its humane and enlightened characteristics, as well as to defend it against the assaults of the mistaken friends of an antagonistic theory. For a series of years, it was the subject of attack by distinguished writers both in Europe and America, and the wise purposes of its founders would have been frustrated, but for the calm and decided attitude assumed by your predecessors in the General Assembly. Time was required to mature it, and experience necessary to bring into action all the elements of punishment and reformation. The *mal-administration* of any

system, however admirably adapted it may be in its parts, brings odium upon its projectors and supporters, and visits it with the verdict of public censure. The friends of the opposite theory seized upon occasional failures in the operation of our system, upon which to found an argument for its discontinuance; and false philanthropists saw in it nothing but the germ of idiocy and lunacy. "Separate" confinement was denominated "solitary;" and the good counsels, humane treatment and christian consolation of the officers of the prison to the unfortunate subjects under their control; the neat and spacious but secure cell; the clean and comfortable apparel; the substantial and wholesome food; the abundance of light and ventilation, and in case of sickness, the best medical skill—were deemed rigorous and severe towards convicted felons undergoing the sentence of the law.

All these charges have been repeatedly refuted, and if they were not, the Statistics of this Prison for 1850, are an ample answer to the whole of them. They place the Pennsylvania Code upon an irrefragable basis—upon a foundation not to be shaken by theory or speculation, and they will challenge the investigation, as well as the admiration, of its denunciators.

We refer you with more than ordinary satisfaction to the several Reports of the Warden, Physician, and Moral Instructor, appended to this Report. Order and discipline have prevailed throughout the year; the health of the inmates daily scrutinized by an eminent medical gentleman, and notwithstanding the temporary prevalence of a fatal epidemic in this vicinity, was never better; and a gradual moral reformation has been evinced, under the guidance of the zealous christian minister whom we have selected to supervise that part of the economy of the prison. The Manufacturing Department has been conducted with an eye single to the interests of the Commonwealth, and without

coming into conflict with the occupations of individuals engaged in similar descriptions of handicraft. The finances have been so admirably managed, as, without impairing the Manufacturing Fund, to exempt the Counties sending convicts here, from the expense of their subsistence, and requiring only from the State the usual appropriation for the salaries of officers.

To A. BECKHAM, Esq. the energetic, economical and vigilant Warden, great praise is due for these satisfactory results; and it would be but an act of justice to a meritorious public officer, if the General Assembly would authorize us to tender him a more liberal compensation than he now receives, for his valuable services.

The subordinate Officers have faithfully fulfilled the duties enjoined upon them, and merited the approbation of the Board of Inspectors.

Congratulating you upon this gratifying exhibit, of one of the most interesting branches of the State's Police, we have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, Your obedient servants,

JAMES ANDERSON,
WILSON M'CANDLESS,
WILLIAM LECKY,
J. K. MOORHEAD,
WILLIAM ROBINSON, JR.

WARDEN'S REPORT.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 1, 1851.

To the Board of Inspectors:

GENTLEMEN—I again spread before you the Annual Statement of the affairs and condition of this Penitentiary.

The past year furnishes an unusually favorable state of health amongst the prisoners. There has been comparatively no sickness in the prison, and *only* one instance of death. The general behavior of the prisoners has been quiet and peaceful throughout the year. The history of the past year has strengthened my convictions in favor of the separate system of confinement. When rightly *administered*, it has not proved *here* detrimental to either mental or physical health.

My former views being unchanged, I have nothing new to present in the present report.

We have now in confinement one hundred and thirty-two males and two females. We have received seventy-two, and discharged sixty-one.

The increase of our numbers is partly owing to the operation of the law prohibiting discharges in the winter months, but mainly to the increase of intemperance.

The whole number of prisoners received since the opening of the prison, July 1st, 1826, to December 31st, 1850, is fourteen hundred and forty-two, viz: eleven hundred and seventy-seven white males, and twenty-three white females, and two hundred and three colored males, and thirty-nine colored females.

The accompanying statement of the clerk will show you the pecuniary condition of the Institution.

The improvements projected during the past year, have all been carried out according to your instructions.

For the prosperity of our Institution, much credit is due to the efficient aid I have at all times received from the Officers of the prison. To each and to all I feel much indebted, and cheerfully bear testimony to their faithfulness in the discharge of their various duties.

To you, Gentlemen, I feel much indebted for your many kindnesses, counsel and efficient support in carrying out the interests of the Institution.

Very Respectfully,

A. BECKHAM, *Warden.*

TABLES.

Prisoners in confinement, January 1st, 1850.		Received and Discharged in the year 1850.							Received during 1850.			Discharged in the following months of the year 1850:									
COUNTIES.	Number.	Received.	Discharged.	Pardoned.	Died.	Writ of Er'r.	Total.	Tot. Disch'd.	Jan. 1, 1850.	MONTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	MONTHS.	Males.	Females.	Time Expi'd.	Pardoned.	Died.	Writ of Er'r.	Total.
Allegheny, ...	53	26	23	5	..	..	79	28	51	Jan.	10	1	11	Jan.	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Armstrong,...	5	5	2	2	..	..	10	4	6	Feb.	3	..	3	Feb.	2	..	1	1	..	..	2
Bedford,	5	1	3	1	..	..	6	4	2	Mar'h	7	..	7	Mar'h	3	..	2	1	..	..	3
Beaver,	3	3	..	2	..	..	11	2	9	April,	4	..	4	April,	13	1	11	3	..	..	14
Butler,	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	May,	2	..	2	May,	4	..	3	1	..	..	4
Cambria, .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	June,	4	..	4	June,	12	..	10	2	..	..	12
Clarion,	1	2	1	..	..	..	3	1	2	July,	5	..	5	July,	..	..	4	..	..	..	4
Erie,	11	7	5	2	..	..	18	7	11	Aug.	3	..	3	Aug.	..	..	7	3	..	..	10
Fayette,	9	2	5	1	..	..	11	6	5	Sept.	10	..	10	Sept.	..	..	6	2	..	..	8
Green,	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	Oct.	..	..	..	Oct.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Huntingdon, .	3	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	2	Nov.	13	..	13	Nov.	3	..	..	3	..	..	3
Jefferson,	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	Dec.	9	1	10	Dec.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mercer,	10	1	1	1	..	..	11	2	9	Total,	70	2	72	Total,	60	1	44	16	1	..	61
Somerset,	1	2	..	1	..	..	3	1	2												
Venango,	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2												
Washington, .	..	5	..	..	..	..	5	..	5												
Westmorel'nd,	4	1	1	..	..	..	5	1	4												
Potter,	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	3												
Crawford,	2	2	..	..	..	..	4	..	4												
Indiana,	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	1												
Blair,	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2												
Clearfield, ...	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1												
Warren,	1	3	1	1	..	..	4	2	2												
United States, ...	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2												
Total,	123	72	44	16	1	..	195	61	134												

COLOR.	Rec'v'd, 1850.	Jan. 1st, 1851.	SEX.	Rec'v'd, 1850.	Jan. 1st, 1851.
White Males,	59	109	Males,	70	132
" Females,	1	1	Females ...	2	2
Col'd. "	1	1			
" Males,	11	23	Total,	72	134
Total.	72	134			

RELATIONS.		Rec'v'd, 1850.	Jan. 1st, 1851.
Married,		34	104
Unmarried,		35	30
Widowers and Widows,		3	...
Total,		72	134

HABITS.		Rec'v'd, 1850.	Jan. 1st, 1851.
Temperate,		10	6
Moderate,		18	21
Intemperate,		44	107
Total,		72	134

OCCUPATIONS.		Rec'v'd, 1850.	Disch'd, 1850.	Tot. Jan. 1851.
Painter,	1			2
Farmers,	4			2
Boatmen,	10			1
Butchers,	4			1
Stone Cutters, .	2			7
Pedlers,	2			1
Grocer,	1			1
Laborers,	33			1
Saddler,	1			1
Cooks,	7			2
Fisherman,	1			2
Wagoners,	5			4
Tailors,	3			1
Barbers,	2			1
Draymen,	2			3
Cotton Operat'r	1			1
Shoemakers, ...	7			1
House Serv'ts..	4			1
Turner,	1			1
Coal-miners, ..	4			1
Leather dres'r.	1			1
Iron Roller. ...	1			1

AGE.		Rec'v'd, 1850.	Disch'd, 1850.	Tot. Jan. 1851.
From 10 to 20,		11	6	15
" 20 to 30,		34	28	61
" 30 to 40,		18	14	45
" 40 to 50,		6	11	10
" 50 to 60,		3	..	3
" 60 to 70, .....		..	2	...
Total,		72	61	134

NATIVES OF		Term of Sentence.								Received in following years.		Prisoners discharged during the following years.									
		Rec'd 1850	For Years	Months	Discharg. 1850	For Years	Months	To 1. Jan. 1, 1851.	For Years	Months	YEARS.	Numbr.	Years.	Expiration.	Pardoned,	Deaths.	Suicide.	Escapes.	Re-committed.	Writ of Err.	Total each year.
Penn'a....	46	1	..	7	1	..	7	1	..	7	1826,	10	1826,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky,	3	1	..	10	1	..	8	1	..	10	1827,	29	1827,	6	2	..	...	5	...	...	13
Maryland,	9	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	1	2	1828,	43	1828,	15	4	2	..	5	...	...	26
Ireland, ..	18	2	1	1	13	1	1	1	1	3	1829,	43	1829,	17	8	..	...	1	...	...	24
Virginia, ..	5	1	1	3	5	1	3	1	1	4	1830,	39	1830,	31	2	3	..	1	...	...	37
Germany, ..	17	15	1	1	1	1	9	14	1	1	1831,	44	1831,	33	6	1	..	...	...	...	40
Poland, ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1832,	47	1832,	13	10	2	..	1	1	...	25
England, .	4	2	1	2	1	1	1	7	1	3	1833,	68	1833,	32	16	3	..	1	...	...	52
Canada, ..	1	7	1	3	5	1	3	1	1	4	1834,	48	1834,	46	15	2	..	1	1	...	63
New York,	8	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	5	1835,	68	1835,	29	5	4	..	...	1	...	37
France, ...	3	8	1	6	8	1	6	9	1	6	1836,	53	1836,	58	2	4	..	2	2	...	64
Ohio,	3	2	1	9	1	1	7	3	1	9	1837,	45	1837,	51	1	..	...	...	...	...	52
Scotland, .	2	1	1	10	11	2	..	4	1	10	1838,	56	1838,	42	9	2	..	...	...	...	53
Louisiana...	1	6	2	..	5	2	6	1	1	11	1839,	84	1839,	42	12	2	1	..	...	...	57
Wales, ...	1	1	2	1	3	3	..	15	2	1	1840,	79	1840,	54	19	1	..	...	...	...	74
Vermont, .	1	1	2	3	1	3	6	3	2	1	1841,	90	1841,	54	7	7	..	...	...	...	68
Maine, ...	1	9	2	6	1	4	..	2	2	3	1842,	69	1842,	46	16	5	..	...	...	...	67
Mass. ...	1	1	2	9	3	5	..	13	2	6	1843,	70	1843,	63	16	6	..	...	...	...	85
Connec't..	4	1	3	..	1	5	6	1	2	7	1844,	60	1844,	50	22	6	..	...	...	...	78
Tennessee,	1	2	7	..	1	20	..	1	3	4	1845,	70	1845,	42	23	4	..	...	...	1	70
N. Jersey,.	1	1	8	9	..	..	..	4	3	6	1846,	60	1846,	43	15	6	..	...	...	...	64
Michigan,	1	2	10	..	..	..	..	2	4	11	1847,	56	1847,	50	17	3	..	1	1	...	70
Total, ..	134	1	1	14	6	..	..	8	5	8	1848,	55	1848,	44	4	4	..	...	...	...	52
		..	..	..	..	..	..	3	10	..	1849,	84	1849,	54	15	7	..	...	...	...	76
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	6	1850,	72	1850,	44	16	1	..	...	...	...	61
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	9	Tot. 1442			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	11	9				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	5	12	..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	12	5	By Expiration. 1850			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	14	6	Pardons,	262		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	16	..	Deaths,	75		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	30	..	Suicide,	1		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Escapes,	17		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Escapes Re-committed,	7		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Writ of Error,	1		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Prisoners confined, Jan. 1, 1850,	1308									134
		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Total,	1442									
Crimes for which they were committed.		Rec'd 1850.	Discharged 1850.	Total, Jan. 1, 1851.																	
Arson,		2	5	4																	
Murder, second degree,		2	..	9																	
Larceny,		43	40	69																	
Forgery, .....		..	1	2																	
Burglary,		3	3	3																	
Horse Stealing,		1	3	7																	
Conspiracy, .....		..	1	1																	
Larceny and Horse Stealing, .....		..	..	6																	
Passing Countereit Money,		4	2	5																	
Larceny and Arson, .....		..	..	1																	
Bigamy,		1	..	2																	
Assault and Battery, with int to kill,		5	..	7																	
Robbery,		1	..	4																	
Rape,		2	..	7																	
Breaking in House, .....		..	..	1																	
Mayhem,		2	1	1																	
Fraudulently obtaining Goods, .....		..	..	..													
False Pretensions, .....		..	2	..																	
Perjury,		1	..	1																	
Embezzling Letters,		2	..	2																	
Counterfeiting Notes, .....		..	..	1																	
Man-slaughter,		1	1	1																	
Riot,		2	2	..																	
Total,		72	61	134																	
TOTAL NUMBER OF PRISONERS												Received since the admission of the first Prisoner July 1, 1826,									
White Males,												1177									
White Females,												23									
Colored Males,												203									
Colored Females,												39									
Total,												1442									

ACCOUNT OF LABOR*In the Western Penitentiary, for the year 1850.***WEAVING.**

DR.

To materials on hand, 1st January, 1850,	- - - - -	\$527 08
To amount of materials purchased from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1850,		3,452 63
		<hr/>
		\$3,979 71
To Profit and Loss,	- - - - -	1,974 43
		<hr/>
		\$5,954 14

CR.

By amount manufactured from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1850,	-	\$5,568 03
By materials on hand, Dec. 31st, 1850,	- - - - -	386 11
		<hr/>
		\$5,954 14

SHOEMAKING.

DR.

To materials on hand, 1st Jan. 1850,	- - - - -	\$361 35
To amount of materials purchased from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1850,		6,418 57
		<hr/>
		\$6,779 92
To Profit and Loss,	s - - - - -	3,866 77
		<hr/>
		\$10,646 69

CR.

By amount manufactured from 1st Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1850,	-	\$9,861 18
By materials on hand Dec. 31st, 1850,	- - - - -	785 51
		<hr/>
		\$10,646 69

SUBSISTENCE.

DR.

To amount expended for Subsistence, from 1st Jan. 1850,		
to Dec. 31st, 1850,	- - - - -	\$8,411 70

CR.

By Profit and Loss,	- - - - -	\$8,411 70
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PROFIT AND LOSS.

DR.

To Subsistence,	- - - - -	\$8411 70
To Stock,	- - - - -	888 49
		<hr/>
		\$9,300 19

CR.

By Weaving,	- - - - -	\$1,974 43
" Shoemaking,	- - - - -	3,866 77
" Merchandise,	- - - - -	3,148 74
" Tailoring,	- - - - -	310 25
		<hr/>
		\$9,300 19

JAMES ALEXANDER, Clerk.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Dec. 31st, 1850.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure I present the annual report in relation to the health of the prison, which has had within its walls, during the year now drawing to a close, one hundred and ninety-five convicts—one hundred and twenty-three on the 1st of January last, and seventy-two received since that time.

One death, only, has occurred, that of No. 1190, (whose dying condition was especially referred to in my last annual report) and which took place a few days afterwards, January 10th. (Better health could hardly have been enjoyed by the same number of persons, under any circumstances, than has been vouchsafed to the inmates of this prison. During the summer months, cholera prevailed in our city and neighborhood, but there was no tendency to it within the prison, save as manifested in some cases of diarrhoea that were relieved before they put on anything of a serious aspect. Much of the freedom from disease, during the summer months, is, undoubtedly, due to the care and attention of the Warden, in having the cells frequently whitewashed, and at all times kept clean and comfortable. In carrying out his directions in these respects, and in kind attention to the sick, the overseers of the prison have ever been prompt and faithful.

One case of temporary mental hallucination has occurred, the result of self-abuse—it continued for but a short time.

The tables of statistics, in relation to those discharged, during the year, by expiration of sentence, and by pardon,

will fully confirm what has been stated in regard to the health of the prison. There have been sixty convicts thus discharged, and *not one* has left the prison but in *good health*, or *better* than that in which he was received, although one-tenth of them had been confined at least *five* years each. Among those discharged by pardon, *three* had been in prison more than *five years each*, another *four years and ten months*, and another over *three* years. *All were discharged in good health.* Such facts—such statistics as are presented by the tables annexed, render any argument unnecessary as to the effects, upon the health of prisoners, of the “separate system” *properly administered.* They are, themselves, the most powerful and convincing arguments, and ought to silence the objections and cavils of the theorist—satisfy even the previously prejudiced, as well as remove the doubts and fears of the sincere philanthropist.

The following table will show the state of health on reception and discharge, the duration of imprisonment, the sex and color of each criminal discharged by expiration of sentence during the year:

IN PRISON.

No.	Yrs.	mo.	State of Health on Reception.	State of Health on Disch.	Sex.	Color.
1205	2	6	Good—habits intemperate,	Good,	M.	Mulat.
1318	0	9	Good, - - -	“	M.	Black.
1279	1	4	Right lung diseased—Syphilis,	Improved health,	M.	Mulat.
1304	1	0	Feeble health, scrofulous,	“	M.	Black.
1310	1	0	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	White.
1305	1	0	Good, - - -	“	F.	Black.
1340	0	7	Good, very intemperate,	“	M.	White.
1288	1	3	Subject to Rheumatism,	“	M.	White.
1289	1	3	Good, <small>Both parents were insane for many years, and died in that state.</small>	“	M.	White.
1290	1	3	Good, - - -	“	M.	White.
1293	1	3	Good, - - -	“	M.	Black.
1282	1	5	Chronic ulcer on thigh,	Good—ulcer healed,	M.	White.
1242	2	0	<small>Enlargement of heart, scrofulous disease of throat and nose—family consumptive and scrofulous.</small>	Much impr'd.	M.	White.
1316	1	0	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	Black.
1278	1	6	Good, - - -	“	M.	White.

No.	Yrs.	Mo.	State of Health on Reception.	State of Health on Discharge.	Sex.	Color.
1280	1	6	Right lung slightly diseased,	Equally good,	M.	White.
1226	2	6	Feeble health—father died of Pulmonary Consumption.	Improved health,	M.	Mulat.
1286	1	6	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	White.
1317	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	Mulat.
1135	4	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1228	2	6	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1323	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1321	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1322	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1258	2	0	Mania a potu,	"	M.	White.
1246	2	0	Gonorrhœa—family consumpt.,	"	M.	White.
1194	3	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1197	3	0	Feeble health from protracted Intermittent fever.	Improved health,	M.	White.
1251	2	0	Good—family consumptive,	Good,	M.	White.
1255	2	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1249	2	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1294	1	6	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1092	5	0	Good, Mother died of Pulmonary Consumption.	"	M.	White.
1329	1	0	Impaired health, -	Improved,	M.	Mulat.
1299	1	6	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	White.
1262	2	0	Good, Both parents died of Pulmo- nary Consumption.	"	M.	White.
1330	1	0	Good, Mother died of Pulmonary Consumption.	"	M.	White.
1264	2	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1333	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1297	1	7	General health good—scrofu- lous diathesis.	"	M.	White.
1334	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	Mulat.
1098	5	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1341	1	0	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1343	1	0	Very feeble—66 years of age,	Improved,	M.	White.

The following table will furnish similar statistics in relation to convicts discharged by pardon during the year.

No.	Yrs.	Mo.	State of Health on Reception.	State of Health on Discharge.	Sex.	Color.
1378	0	1	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	White.
1241	1	11	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1066	5	1	Broken down by intemp.	"	M.	White.
1253	1	9	Good, Called "crazy" in his own neighborhood.	"	M.	White.
1325	0	10	Good—family consumptive	"	M.	White.
1020	5	8	Good, - - -	"	M.	Mulat.
1387	0	3	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.

No.	Yrs.	Mo.	State of Health on Reception	State of Health on Discharge.	Sex.	Color.
1295	1	4	Chronic disease of liver,	Improv'd health,	M.	White.
1107	4	10	Good, - - -	Good,	M.	White.
1392	0	4	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1393	0	4	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1093	5	1	Good—family consumptive,	"	M.	White.
1200	3	2	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1399	0	5	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1410	0	2	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.
1413	0	2	Good, - - -	"	M.	White.

Very respectfully,

T. F. DALE, M. D.

To the Board of Inspectors of Western Penitentiary.

MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

WESTERN PENITENTIARY, Jan. 1, 1851.

To the Board of Inspectors:

GENTLEMEN—The period has again arrived when an annual statement of the moral condition of this prison is required by those who are the guardians of its various interests.

The quiet and peaceful progress in the formation of moral character, which may be seen, in greater or less degree, in the inmates of this prison, furnishes, above all things, cause of thankfulness to Almighty God. *In his hand are the hearts of all men*, and wherever there have been manifestations of moral and religious improvement, it is because means of divine appointment have been employed, and dependence upon the omnipotent *grace* of God has been expressed.

The system of instruction pursued amongst the unfortunate and outcast class of the community, whose abiding place is this prison house, is invariably associated with the religion of the Bible. They who would learn to respect and obey the laws which have been instituted for the government of men, must first be taught to reverence and obey that God who *rules over the children of men*. The propriety and rectitude of God's moral government over all things, impressed upon the mind, is that principally which produces comparative contentment in the seclusion of a prison. Where there is submission to the religion of the Bible, there will be also uncomplaining submission to the providential arrangements of God.

(Professions of *conversion to God* are not unfrequent among)

prisoners. There are, within these walls, many who say they have felt the regenerating influences of divine grace. And there needs but the application of *exciting agencies* at any time to make such condition extensively prevalent. All who show anxiety or concern regarding their spiritual interest, are carefully instructed in the way of life from the Word of God, and are encouraged to persevere in the path of truth, trusting, always, in the grace of God's Spirit. Yet, because these professions are often known to be insincere, and made with a hope of accomplishing an object of temporal interest, they are all received with great caution, and many grains of allowance. That which is more reliable as evidence of reformation of character, is the prisoner's continued and uniform moral conduct. The reality of conversion is seen when the discharged convict does right in the sight of God and men. Prisoners are not encouraged to profess religion that they may procure a pardon.

The *moral instruction* of this prison, embraces the communication to those who are sent here in *utter ignorance*, of the rudiments of a common education. Those who cannot read, are taught to read, and especially *to read the Bible*, and upon all, those influences which are calculated to cultivate the mind and improve the heart, are constantly and prayerfully brought to bear. In seclusion from each other, prisoners are continually made to feel that God has given to them minds to improve and cultivate, and hearts to make better. The study of the word of God, the reading of books of moral and religious character, and works of science and the histories of the great and good of all ages, and all of this, associated with the daily communion of men of the strictest morality, and of religious character, as are the officers of this prison, are the things which make *separate confinement* a *blessing* and not a *curse*. There is no gloomy, solitary, deathful *isolation* in the Pennsylvania system thus administered.

On every Sabbath throughout the year, the custom is to

preach the gospel to *all* the *prisoners*. They hear, in the plainest and most simple language, the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, explained and enforced. They listen with *still* attention to the words of everlasting life, and when the praise of God is sung, their voices are heard in the melody of divine worship. Throughout the week, day after day they are visited in their cells. The ignorant are taught, the anxious and inquiring sinner is directed to the Saviour, and the scholar, who would make himself a better man by mental and moral training, is furnished with books suitable to his condition, and is directed how to use them. The privilege also of corresponding by letter with absent relations and friends, has been granted, as usual, to the prisoners. Frequently, throughout the year, they have heard from father or mother, or wife or child, and thus the holier charities of our nature are kept alive in a soil even as barren and sterile as a convict's heart. These are the instrumentalities for good in the penal system of *separate* confinement, which make it a *merciful visitation*, and which create its immeasurable superiority over every other.

There are, at the present time, one hundred and thirty-four convicts in this prison. Of these one hundred and seven confess they were *intemperate*. Murders and other terrible crimes were committed by men in whom, at the time, the demon of drunkenness was the governing spirit. The remaining twenty-seven call themselves *temperate* and *moderate drinkers*. In other words, all the convicts in this prison, with some slight exception, habitually used intoxicating drinks!! Is there not a fearful responsibility resting upon the heads of those who, by their example and practice, encourage a habit which brings so much crime and misery upon society? It is worthy of consideration, also, in this connexion, that the alarming and ruinous increase of drunkenness during the past year, has been followed by a corresponding increase of crime and punishment. At the last annual report the num-

ber in prison was one hundred and twenty-three, now it is one hundred and thirty-four.

Of those now in confinement, fifty-six have been, or are married, and seventy-eight are unmarried. This large proportion of *young* men, and there is one under twelve years of age, shows the indispensable necessity of a *House of Refuge* in this community. So soon as *juvenile offenders* are saved by an Institution of this kind from the vicious habits and practices which are leading them on to ruin, our prison will not have in it so many youthful convicts.

Sixty prisoners were discharged during the year by expiration of sentence and by pardon. Of these, all could read with the exception of one, who had been in prison but a short time. Many of them gave promise of future good conduct. Some of them, who have gone to a distance, have written back letters of grateful acknowledgment for the kindness and benefit they had received during the time of their imprisonment. Seventy-two have been received in the year. Of these, twelve could neither read nor write when they came to this prison. Some of them have already learned to read, and all will, doubtless, succeed in this art before they go back into the world.

One prisoner only, died during the year. He had a mind of the most feeble cast, and his moral character was like his mind.

In the discharge of the various duties of Moral Instructor, I have always found kind and efficient coadjutors in the Warden and other officers of this prison. They have given, at all times, the influence of their advice and example, in favor of moral order and evangelical religion.

Respectfully submitted,

A. W. BLACK, *Moral Instructor.*